Malnourishment of children

50. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that every third malnourished child of the world is in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that 150 million Indian children are at the risk of becoming malnourished as on date and out of the total infant mortality cases, 59 per cent are girls; and

(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take for proper growth, development and survival of children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Killing of girl foetus

51. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that killing of girl foetus is still rampant in prosperous States when India's sex ratio for girls being 927 for 1000 boys;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 125 cases of foeticide were registered in 2006; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government has taken or proposed to take to save the girl child from foeticide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) is one the most important indicator used for study of population characteristics. Declining trend in sex ratio has been a matter of concern for all in the country.

Child Sex Ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census.

The Census 2001 figures further reveal that the Child Sex Ratio is comparatively lower in the affluent regions, *i.e.,* Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883), Himachal Pradesh (896) and Rajasthan (909).

(b) As per the data furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau, *vide* their letter dated 5.12.2008, 125 cases were registered during, 2006.

(c) In order to check female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. The Act has been amended to make it more comprehensive. The amended Act, *viz.* "Pre-conception and Pre-